79-7830/3

OLC 79-2706/C
September 20, 1979

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MEMORANDUM FOR
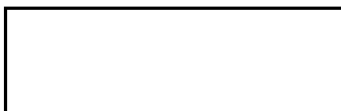
SUBJECT   Lloyd Cutler Question From our Updated IIM
             on Soviet Ground Forces Brigade in Cuba

1. White House Counsel Lloyd Cutler has read our updated IIM
on the Soviet Brigade in Cuba. He has the following question:

As he reads the updated IIM, the Community takes no
position on the size of the Soviet unit prior to the August 79 estimate
of 2600-3000 (page 5) as the brigade may have been deployed earlier
this year or last year. That is, the updated IIM does not answer the
question whether this 2600-3000 man force in our judgment represents
an increase over the size of the unit as it existed earlier this year
or during CY 78. He wonders whether the Community is now reviewing
the evidence to answer this question and revising our earlier estimates
accordingly.

2. With the benefit of retrospective analysis, I believe Mr.
Cutler wants to know whether the Community now believes that the Soviet
Brigade has existed as a 2600-3000 man force since at least the 8
August 78 NID reference to it and what this does to our estimate of
total Soviet military presence on the Island since that time. Especially
significant is its relationship to our estimate of Soviet military strength
in Cuba in the 19 July IIM contained in para 2 (p.1) and in para 11 (p.3)
of that document.

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4. Quite clearly, Mr. Cutler is looking for evidence which would
validate Secretary Brown's assertion to the SFRC on 17 July (and Secretary
Vance's later assertion to Senator Stone) that "there is no evidence of
any substantial increase in the size of the Soviet military presence in
Cuba over the past several years".

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Frederick P. Hitz
Legislative Counsel

Attachment

cc: DCI w/attach.
    DDCI   "
    DD/NFA   "

ALL PORTIONS OF THIS MEMO ARE CLASSIFIED SECRET AND SHOULD BE CLOSELY HELD.

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt